

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 080933Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8596

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PFOR US DA VS

SUBJ: DANISH AID TO VIET-NAM

REF: COPENHAGEN 1598 OF 7/12/73, 3025 OF 11/30/73

0094 OF 1/11/74

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FONMIN GULDBERG MARCH 7 I MENTIONED PRESS REPORTS THIS WEEK THAT THE DANES ARE ABOUT TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR THREE-WAY SPLIT OF AID TO VIET-NAM. I SAID THIS WAS DISTRESSING NEWS AND I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE JUSTIFICATION FOR TREATING THE VIET CONG AS A SEPARATE PARTY AS FAR AS AID IS CONCERNED. THEY CONTROL LESS THAN TEN PER CENT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM AND ARE, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, AN EXTENSION OF THE HANOI REGIME. EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, I WANTED TO ASK WHETHER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS THREE-WAY SPLIT. GULDBERG DID NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY BUT SMILED AND SAID "WE HAVE ONLY TWELVE PER CENT OF THE MANDATES IN PARLIAMENT", A CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE NARROW BASE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT
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IF THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO OVERTURN THE POLICY OF A

THREE-WAY SPLIT HE WAS AFRAID THAT THE END RESULT WOULD BE WORSE THAN THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THIS MANNER OF HANDLING AID TO VIET-NAM BUT HE RECOGNIZED THAT, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN DENMARK IT WAS A POLITICAL NECESSITY. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THOUGHT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE THE BALANCE A LITTLE AND HE WOULD NOT BE UNHAPPY TO REMAIN IN OFFICE LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE IT A GREAT DEAL MORE.

2. COMMENT. I AM AWARE THAT GULDBERG IN HIS MINORITY POSITION WOULD HAVE AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK IN TRYING TO TURN AROUND THIS EMOTION-LADEN POLICY WHICH HAD BEEN SET BY THE FORMER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, BUT I INTEND TO ENCOURAGE HIM WHENEVER THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO GET THE RATIO IN BETTER PERSPECTIVE, AT LEAST ONE FOR ONE RATHER THAN ONE FOR OUR SIDE AND TWO FOR THE COMMUNIST SIDE.
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